

Remarks

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above, and comments which follow.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 10 and 16-23 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Iwanaga U.S. Patent No. 6,710,569. The subject matter of claims 2-9 and 11-15 has been indicated to be allowable.

In response, the subject matter of claim 2 has been added to claim 1, and therefore it is submitted that amended claim 1 and depending claims 3 through 9 are allowable. Similarly, the subject matter of claim 11 has been added to claim 10, and it is submitted that amended claim 10, and depending claim 12 through 15 are allowable.

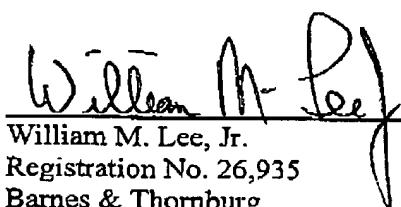
Also, independent claims 16, 17, 19 and 23 have been similarly amended to include the subject matter of allowable, and now-cancelled, dependent claims 2 and 11. It is therefore submitted that these claims, and their depending claims, are now allowable.

Finally, claims 20 through 22 have been cancelled.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

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Respectfully submitted,



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